

# WCGS News

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## County roasts Thompson

**Shirleyan Beacham Phelps**

Editor

Harry L. Thompson, curator of the Port O'Plymouth Museum (among other things) is one of WCGS' board members – everyone who knows Harry loves him and knows how much he loves to talk! If you've ever taken one of his history / genealogy classes – you came away with more stories and history than you can remember. Harry's also known for the oyster roasts he throws at his Bertie County home. Well, the tables have been turned. Recently, folks in Washington County gathered at the Western Steer to roast the roaster. Harry was lured to the affair by another storyteller – Dow Jones, Jr. Harry thought it mighty strange when a planned meeting in Martin County got changed at the last minute to a location in Plymouth. Among the many guests were Harry's wife, children and grandchildren and a number of former students and/or teachers. It was a fitting affair for a man who has done so much for Washington County – If you don't know Harry, make it a point to visit the museum and go prepared to spend some time – you won't walk away in a hurry – nor will you want to – he'll make your visit worth your while –

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## Some online queries from 2000

Philip J. Simmons of 10 Joubert Rd., Camptonville CA 95992 (530-632-1612 or 530-289-3317) requested help regarding his father's family. P. J. Simmons was born in "MacKey's Ferry, N.C." in 1906. His mother's maiden name was Ailene Brickhouse; his father's was Jefferson Davis Smmons.

Philip Simmons wrote further: "My paternal G.F., Jeff Davis Simmons, alleged to have been employed by predecessor to U. S. Coast Guard – Life Saving Service. He left that job and was killed in an industrial accident "fell in a lime pit and was killed" – Philip's father, P. J. Simmons, was about 14 at that time; two other brothers (names unknown) one of whom worked in the Chevrolet plant, Oakland, CA during World War II. He died before the end of the war; a sister named Lillian who married a Norfolk, Virginia police officer, Ben Dow; and had a number of children and lived many years in Norfolk. My father married Alice Evans about 1925 in Norfolk. – If you can help, please share with WCGS and with Philip (at [ww.sleighville@ips.net](mailto:ww.sleighville@ips.net)) wcg

## From our mailbox:

Albemarle Genealogical Society, 142 Waterlily Rd, Coinjock NC 27923 requests mutual exchange of newsletters and included their October Issue Lois Meekins, AGS Corresponding Secretary.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

19<sup>th</sup> November Meeting Place – First OFWB Church – Plymouth Time – 2:30 p.m. Speaker: Lois Krawczik – "Pea Ridge" – and Annual Seasonal Social – (Thanksgiving & Christmas combined)

December 2000 – No meeting!

he'll even drag out file folders, etc., to help you find your elusive eastern North Carolina ancestor. wccgs

Vernon L. Everett Jr. writes:

(Labor Day) Your comments (August about handwriting are quite true. Case in point, Bible Record of Wm. M. Biggs pg 42 c43:

Amariah Biggs (1767-1827), the Morratock minister, married Dorothy circa 1790 in Halifax Co., N.C.

Dorothy is thought to have been a Martin or Martyn as it is spelled in the Bible. Amariah and Dorothy's third child was named Steven Martyn Biggs.

Steven or Stephen Martyn Biggs named their 3<sup>rd</sup> child William Martyn Biggs. Stephen had married Nancy Ann Ambrose.

William Martyn Biggs married 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Frances Shehan, April 4, 1866 according to the Bible Record or October 30<sup>th</sup> 1866 according to page 40 of WCCS Washington Co. Marriages. Mary Frances was the daughter of James & Aquilla Shehan. Their children were:

Indiana (Orra Ida) 1869-1887?

Emery Cartwright (Carter E.) 1874 or 1876 - 1918

Harrison Ellsworth 1872 - Before 1880

Aquilla Caroline (Carrie) 5 June 1878 - Oct. 15, 1964 - Carrie married Marcus D. Clifton and married 2<sup>nd</sup> John B. Kettle who was a comrade of her father's in the Union Army.

William S. 1877 - Living 1900.

William Martyn Biggs married 2<sup>nd</sup> Martha Ann Hufton, widow of Sylvanius Phelps and daughter of James M. Hufton and Maria Ellis, the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of Hufton. James M. Hufton married 3<sup>rd</sup> Mary (Polly) Phelps Apr. 24, 1845 - Tyrrell Co.

William and Martha had only 1 child Virginia Ann (Jennie) born Aug. 6, 1880, death date unknown. Jennie married James Preston Hassell, son of Solomon Hassell and Mariah Hufton.

The census records and the Bible records do not agree on some of the dates.

There were 3 marriages in the Bible record that were omitted from the WCCS copy.

The only other Shehan found in the early census was

Margaret, who married Solomon Dunbar. The Shehan family was in some way related to the Jethro family.

Other references: 1860 WCCS Census page 5; 1860 WCCS Census page 53

The census indicates that Margaret and Mary Frances were twins. I have done extensive research on the Huftons, Hassells and Biggs Families of Pea Ridge. wccgs

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*Time to renew membership in Washington County Genealogical Society - \$15 Individual - \$18 for family membership. Deadline 31 December 2000*

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## Old Naming Pattern for Children

The first son was usually named after the father's father.

The second son was usually named after the mother's father.

The third son was usually named after the father.

The fourth son was usually named after the father's eldest brother.

The fifth son was usually named after the mother's eldest brother.

The first daughter was usually named after the mother's mother.

The second daughter was usually named after the father's mother.

The third daughter was usually named after the mother.

The fourth daughter was usually named after the mother's eldest sister.

The fifth daughter was usually named after the father's eldest sister.

This pattern was not always followed exactly but most would usually keep the pattern for the first three children. If there was a name that was found in every generation, (example: John, William, Edward, Charles, etc.) then somewhere in their children you will surely find these names. If one is stuck on finding parents for an ancestor, try this pattern to give one a suggestion as to a name to search for. (Source: Unknown)

## Biggs Cemetery

Skinnerville Township: Blair Shores Road off Pea Ridge Road near Piney Grove

Biggs, Rev. Stephen Martyn Feb. 9, 1809 Oct. 18, 1902

Biggs, Nancy A. Dec. 24, 1822 June 18, 1905  
(Parents: \_\_\_\_\_ Husband: Rev. Stephen M. Biggs)

Biggs, William Martyn May 28, 1841 About 1914 89 N. Y. INF Civil War. Parents: Rev. Stephen M. Biggs & Nancy Ann Ambrose; Wives: Martha Ann Hufton, Mary Frances Shehan

Biggs, Martha Ann Aug. 12, 1842 Nov. 22, 1924.  
Parents: James M. Hufton & Maria Ellis Husbands: Sylvanus Phelps, William M. Biggs.

Footstone Z.P.A. Zephania Powell Alexander? Buried in the Alexander Cemetery

Hassell, G. Spencer Jan. 7, 1902 Apr. 19, 1973  
Parents: James Preston Hassell & Virginia A. Biggs  
Wife: Elizabeth Windley

Hassell, Jonas P. Feb. 5, 1881 Feb. 2, 1926 Parents: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ wife: \_\_\_\_\_

Hassell DHS no information

Funeral marker no information

Funeral marker no information VLEjr wogs

## Wynn Cemetery

Skinnerville Township: Barber Road 1.1 miles on left from Pea Ridge Road 200 yards from road in chain link fence.

1. Wynn, Ersel F. July 4, 1915 B May 24, 1982 Parents: Joseph Benjamin and Hattie Swanner Wynn Wife: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Wynn, Margie Dec. 29, 1846 B May 28, 1952

Parents: Leroy Wynn and Margie Owens.

3. Wynn, Joseph Benjamin Nov. 17, 1892 B Mar. 25, 1972 DHS Parents: Benjamin F. Wynn and Samantha "Mattie" Elizabeth Norman Wife: Hattie Swanner

4. Wynn, Hattie Swanner Feb. 16, 1895 B July 9, 1980  
Parents: Henry L. Swanner and Viola Snell  
Husband: Joseph Benjamin Wynn VLEjr.

## CENSUS RECORDS 1880

The 1880 Census for Washington County has now been completed and is available online. wogs

PERSONAL STUFF: Computers are great – but when you mess up – it's a major catastrophe! Last month's issue of the newsletter was meant to include quite a few records but because I can't get my act together with Word, it ended up short. Same story this month – I "grew up" (in my late years) learning Word Perfect and feel I can work my way around about anything but trying to get text and pictures formatted into a Word document just doesn't work out for me. If you noticed "B"s in strange places – that's the reason. My Beacham relatives had not had a reunion for about 50 years, more or less, until 23 September when 68 of us met at Cobbs Restaurant in Williamston and spent a little time getting to know each other. wogs

Additional Online Queries: Ginny "Gordon Basnight lists Elsberry (b. about 1817) Ambrose's first wife as Priscilla Phelps (born about 1823.) Do you happen to know who Priscilla's parents and/or siblings were? Just curious which Phelps family she belongs to. (Answer to: [rockster@harborside.com](mailto:rockster@harborside.com)) or to WCGS

Margie Mealor is trying to find information / parents of her great grandmother, Lillian Ayers, born Washington County after 1860 (Margie's grandmother was born 1888 and married Taylor Walker Davis.) Answer to: [mlsmnc@aol.com](mailto:mlsmnc@aol.com) or to WCGS.

Dan Clifton: Looking for info on wives/parents of his great-grandfather, Thomas A. Clifton lived in Washington Co., Plymouth Dist. 1st marriage ab.1842; name unknown – they had 2 children: David and Samuel. She died ab. 1850. 2nd marriage to Martha Brown (b. about 1831) ab. 1859; they had 2 children: Warren and Evora, she died bef. 1865. 3rd marriage, 1866, name unknown; had 2 children: John and Lula; she probably died bef. 1872; 4<sup>th</sup> marriage to Catherine Sanderson (b ab.1847) in 1873; had a son by previous marriage to a man named Barber; she had 5 children with Thomas: William Benjamin, Donna Lorena, Lucy, Ernest Sylvester and Jesse. Reply to: [dclifton@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dclifton@cfl.rr.com) wogs

Washington County Genealogical Society; P O Box 567,  
Plymouth NC 27962.

# Hassells in Washington County - Census

1850

Jesse 55 M  
Elizabeth 25 F  
Margaret 11 F  
Jesse 10 M  
Edward F. 8 M  
Elizabeth 4 F  
Martha 2 F  
Caroline 1 F

Enoch 33 M  
Rachel 26 F  
Ann C. 3 F  
Sarah 3/12 F

Thos. L. 51 M  
Mary A. 45 F  
Richard 17 M  
Isaac 10 M  
Geo. W. 10 M

George (?) 33 M  
Harriett 26 F  
Sarah 11 F  
Lydia 8 F  
Alfred 5 M  
Illegible 2 F  
Geo. H. 9/12 M

Archibald 59 M  
Clarky 41 F  
James 24 M  
Elizabeth 23 F  
Archie 22 M  
Warren H. 19 M  
Clarky 18 F  
Martha 17 F  
Margaret 15 F  
William 14 M  
Dempsey 12 M  
Durham 10 M  
Caroline 9 F

Levi W.? 22 M  
Diana ? 19 F  
Jacob 1 M  
Jordan 6/12 M

Benjamin 50 M  
Nancy 45 F  
Affy 19 F  
Benjamin 15 M  
Mahala 13 F  
Elizabeth 12 F  
Giles 10 M

1860

William 18 M  
Jesse S. 61 M  
Hulda 43 F  
Weldon 14 M  
Geo. W. 3 M  
Enoch B. 2 M  
Solomon 8/12 M

Levi 33 M  
Massandra 28 F  
Jordan W. 11 M  
Sarah F. 5 F  
Durham E. 3 M

Calvin L. 35 M  
Nancy 32 F  
Nalia ? 6 F  
Alexander 4 M  
Pilphia ? 1 F

Benjamin 60 M  
Nancy 46 F  
Mahala 23 F  
Nancy 13 F  
Stephen 11 M  
Evans 11 M  
Priscilla 9 F

Benjamin S. 26 M  
Lavinia 26 F  
Ann Eunice 1 F

James 11 M  
Thomas L. 61 M  
Mary A. J. 55 F  
Isaac 20 M  
Thos. M. 22 M  
George W. 20 M

James 35 M  
Miley 42 F

Caroline 13 F

Elizabeth 23 F

Martha 13 F

1870

Benjamin 30 M  
Laura 29 F  
Unice 12 F  
Mary 10 F  
Solomon 9 M  
Joseph 2 M

Charles 35 M  
Nancy 40 F  
Jane 16 F  
Alie 10 M  
Sylvia 10 F  
Harrison 9 M  
Richard 7 M

Nancy 60 F  
Evans 22 M  
Stephen 22 M  
Nancy 27 F  
Priscilla 20 F

Julia 10 F  
Martha 6 F

E. 47 M  
Margaret 30 F  
Frank 27 M  
Elizabeth 24 F  
Carolina 20 F  
Lavinia 17 F  
Nancy 12 F  
Anna 9 F

Thomas 62 M  
Mary 60 F  
Thomas 31 M

James 12 M

Sarah 20 F

L.S. 40 M  
Josephine 24 F  
Eugenia 7/12 F

Thomas 50 M  
Elizabeth 52 F  
Henry 9 M  
Mary 2 F

Will 29 M  
Milly 30 F  
Hester 2 F  
Richard 6/12 M

*None of Family  
Found in 1870  
NOT in Tyrrell  
OR MARTIN*

*DIANA - MASSANDRA - SHOULD BE MIRANDA*